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(54) **WATER VAPOR-PERMEABLE AND WATERPROOF MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

(57) The present invention provides a highly durable, moisture-permeable, waterproof material that is high in moisture-permeability and waterproofness and able to achieve good adhesion with such a coat layer as moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer and with such a fibrous structural material as fabric, and a method for the production thereof.

The moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the invention comprises a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, a fibrous structural material, and a water-swellaable adhesive layer interposed between the former two to adhere them together, wherein the surfaces of the single fibers comprising said fibrous structural material are coated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component, said fibrous structural material and said water-swellaable adhesive

layer being adhered via the pre-treating agent.

The moisture-permeable, waterproof material can be produced by the following steps: coating a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer with a water-swellaable adhesive layer, the latter being the outermost, to form film; and pressure-bonding a fibrous structural material pre-treated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component to said water-swellaable adhesive layer, thereby adhering said fibrous structural material and said water-swellaable adhesive layer together.

The moisture-permeable, waterproof material can serve to produce outdoor wear such as fishing wear and mountaineering wear; ski wear, windbreakers, athletic wear, golf wear, rain wear, and casual coats; as well as outdoor working wear, gloves, and shoes.

Description

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a moisture-permeable, waterproof material and a method for the production thereof. More specifically the present invention relates to a moisture-permeable, waterproof, highly durable material that comprises a film layer such as a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer firmly adhered to a fibrous structural material such as fabric, and also relates to a method for the production thereof.

[0002] Conventionally, moisture-permeable, waterproof materials, particularly laminate-type ones that consist of a film layer and a fabric layer adhered to each other, are produced by using an adhesive to attach such film and fabric layers to each other. More specifically, an adhesive is applied to film or fabric, and the film and the fabric are pressure-bonded, followed by curing the adhesive to thereby adhere them together.

[0003] In recent years, moisture-permeable, waterproof materials are required to be more comfortable, and adhesive layers with higher moisture-permeability have been sought in order to provide more comfortable materials. For this purpose, water-swellaible polymer compounds with higher moisture-permeability have been in wider use as adhesive material.

[0004] Although such a water-swellaible polymer compound serving as adhesive can improve the moisture-permeability of a moisture-permeable, waterproof material, the water-swellaibility of the adhesive layer impairs the adhesion with fibrous structural material, especially when moistened, contributing to lowering the durability against washing.

[0005] As described above, it is highly desirable presently to develop a water-swellaible polymer compound that can achieve improved adhesion in a moistened condition.

Disclosure of the Invention

[0006] In view of the foregoing, the object of the present invention is to provide a moisture-permeable, waterproof material that is high in permeability and water-resistance, able to maintain good adhesion between a film layer such as a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer and a fibrous structural material, and high in bond durability in a moistened condition such as during washing, and to provide a method for the production thereof.

[0007] The moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention has the following constitution to overcome the above-mentioned problems.

[0008] Thus, the present invention provides a moisture-permeable, waterproof material comprising a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer and a fibrous structural material, with a water-swellaible adhesive layer interposed between the former two to adhere them

together, wherein the surfaces of single fibers comprising the fibrous structural material are coated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component, said fibrous structural material and said water-swellaible adhesive layer being adhered by said pre-treating agent.

[0009] In preferred embodiments of the present invention, the moisture-permeable, waterproof material is characterized by the following features:

(a) Said pre-treating agent is a resin that contains a phenol resin derivative as main component;

(b) Said water-swellaible adhesive layer is composed of a mixture of a water-swellaible polyurethane and a polyhydric alcohol derivative, and crosslinked by a polyisocyanate;

(c) Said ratio of the number of ethylene glycol units that constitute the polyethylene glycol in the polyol to the number of isocyanate units that constitute said water-swellaible polyurethane, is 20 or more and less than 30;

(d) Said polyhydric alcohol derivative is a glycerol derivative;

(e) Said polyisocyanate is an aliphatic isocyanate derivative;

(f) Said adhesive layer is a continuous resin layer; and

(g) Said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is a continuous resin layer containing polyurethane as main component.

[0010] The production method of the moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention has the following constitution.

[0011] Specifically, the production method of the moisture-permeable, waterproof material comprises the following steps: coating a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer with a water-swellaible, adhesive layer, the latter being the outermost, to form film; and pressure-bonding a fibrous structural material pre-treated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component, to the water-swellaible, adhesive layer, to thereby adhere the water-swellaible, adhesive layer and the fibrous structural material together.

[0012] In preferred embodiments of the present invention, the production method of the moisture-permeable, waterproof material is characterized by the following features:

(a) Said pre-treatment is carried out by impregnating an aqueous solution of a pre-treating agent into the fibrous structural material, followed by heat-treatment for fixing;

(b) Said pre-treatment is carried out by allowing the fibrous structural material to absorb and fix the pre-treating agent a bath.

[0013] The above-described constitution of the

present invention provides material that has a single fiber surface with high wettability by a water-swella-
ble, adhesive layer and that contains highly crosslinkable func-
tional groups to achieve high adhesiveness, particularly
in a moistened state, even when a water-swella-
ble, highly moisture-permeable adhesive layer is used.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

[0014] The moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention comprises a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, a fibrous structural material, and a water-swella-
ble, adhesive layer interposed between the former two to adhere them together.

[0015] The "moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer" as used herein refers to a film layer having both moisture-permeability and waterproofness.

[0016] The "moisture-permeability" of the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer refers to ability to allow sweat vapor or liquid sweat generated inside clothing to pass through the film, thereby discharging the sweat vapor or liquid sweat to the outside of the clothing. The "waterproofness" refers to ability to block out water droplets of rain or snow so as not to allow them to pass through the film to the inside of the clothing.

[0017] Specifically, typical moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer include dry, non-porous film of a polyurethane resin; wet, porous film of a polyurethane resin; non-porous film of a hydrophilic polyester elastomer resin; and stretched porous film of a polytetrafluoroethylene. The moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer of the present invention is preferably a continuous (the meaning of "continuous" will be described hereinafter) resin layer containing polyurethane as main component because such a layer serves to provide material with good texture and particularly with high stretching capability and cold resistance.

[0018] In order to achieve desired properties such as moisture-permeability, durability, and texture of the material obtained after the completion of adhesion, the thickness of the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is preferably 5-50 μm , more preferably 10-30 μm .

[0019] Such a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is then adhered to a fibrous structural material by means of adhesive force of a water-swella-
ble adhesive layer interposed between them.

[0020] Preferred adhesives constituting a water-swella-
ble adhesive layer as used in the present invention include solvent-based adhesives such as urethane resin, acrylic resin, and vinyl acetate resin; other types of adhesives in such forms as emulsion, hot-melt, and reactive hot-melt; and adhesives consisting of two or more of the above-listed ones. Urethane resin adhesives are preferred because they adhere strongly to materials used for the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer and the fibrous structural material while maintaining moisture permeability.

[0021] The "water-swella-
bility" used herein refers to

a property of a resin to swell by the effect of moisture (in vapor state) or water (in liquid state) absorbed among polymer molecules to allow large amounts of water molecules to be sorbed among polymer molecules, resulting in swelling of the resin into which water is incorporated.

[0022] In order to achieve desired properties such as moisture-permeability, durability, and texture of the material obtained after the completion of adhesion, the thickness of the adhesive layer is preferably 10-100 μm , more preferably 20-40 μm .

[0023] For the present invention, it is important that the surfaces of single fibers that constitute said fibrous structural material to which said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is adhered together, with said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer in between, is coated with a pre-treating agent.

[0024] If the single fibers are treated with a pre-treating agent, the pre-treating agent is present between the adhesive and the single fibers, thereby enhancing the adhesion between the adhesive and the single fibers. As a result, the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is firmly fixed to the fibrous structural material. Furthermore, wettability by the adhesive and the degree of crosslinking can be improved.

[0025] When the surfaces of the single fibers are treated with a pre-treating agent, part of or entire surfaces of the single fibers may be coated with the pre-treating agent, or the pre-treating agent may be exhausted into surface layers of the single fibers.

[0026] The pre-treating agent used in the present invention contains a polyhydric compound as main component. When the surfaces of the single fibers are pre-treated with such a pre-treating agent, the adhesion is enhanced because hydroxyl groups present on the surfaces of the single fibers significantly improves wettability by the adhesive and the degree of crosslinking.

[0027] The pre-treating agent used in the present invention is preferably a compound having two or more hydroxyl groups. As such compounds having two or more hydroxyl groups, polyhydric phenol derivatives are particularly preferred. The "polyhydric phenol derivative" used herein refers to polymerized phenol derivatives and modified forms of such derivatives. Among such compounds, sulfonated novolac resin is preferred, though the present invention is not limited to such compounds.

[0028] Said above-described water-swella-
ble adhesive layer used in the present invention is preferably a mixture of a water-swella-
ble polyurethane and a polyhydric alcohol derivative.

[0029] The "water-swella-
ble polyurethane" used herein refers to a polyurethane that possesses the following characteristics: When a continuous film made of such a polyurethane, used as the sole component, is immersed in water, the film swells with a linear swelling rate of 3% or more.

[0030] In order to achieve a sufficient permeability, a

polyurethane resin having a linear swelling rate of 5% or more, more preferably 10% or more, should be used.

[0031] If a polyurethane resin is used as said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer, said fibrous structural material
combined with said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer will have excellent texture and stretchability, and even when
film layers having different thicknesses are laminated,
the layers can coordinate very closely with each other.

[0032] Preferred polyurethane resins include copoly-
mers produced by reacting a polyisocyanate with a poly-
ol.

[0033] Preferred isocyanate components include ar-
omatic diisocyanates and aliphatic diisocyanates, which
may be used singly or in combination.

[0034] Such components include tolylene diisocya-
nate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, 4,4'-methy-
lenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate), hexamethylene diisocya-
nate, xylylene diisocyanate, and isophorone diisocya-
nate. Preferred polyol components include polyether
polyols and polyester polyols. Preferred polyether poly-
ols include polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol,
and polytetramethylene glycol. Preferred polyester
polyols include reaction products of a diol such as ethy-
lene glycol and propylene glycol and a diacid such as
adipic acid and sebacic acid; and a ring-opened polym-
erization product such as caprolactone. Alternatively, oth-
er components such as those based on ether/ester,
amide, or carbonate may be used as required.

[0035] For the present invention, said polyisocyanate
should be 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate or 4,4'-
methylene bis(cyclohexylisocyanate) to maintain or en-
hance the tensile strength of the resin, and said polyol
should be a polyurethane resin containing polyethylene
glycol as major component to achieve a high moisture
permeability.

[0036] Preferred polyhydric alcohol derivatives in-
clude monomers such as ethylene glycol, propylene gly-
col, tetramethylene glycol, glycerol, and trimethylpropan-
ol; polymers derived from said monomers; and com-
pounds having one or more reactive terminal groups
such as glycidylether.

[0037] If such a polyhydric alcohol derivative is added
up to not less than 3 wt% and less than 50 wt%, prefer-
ably not less than 10 wt% and less than 30 wt%, relative
to the weight of the water-swella-
ble polyurethane, the wet-
tability and initial tackiness between the adhesive
and the pre-treating agent during the adhesion process
can be significantly enhanced, resulting in a signifi-
cantly improved adhesion while preventing the lowering
of moisture permeability from being caused by
crosslinking.

[0038] Preferably, said mixture of a water-swella-
ble polyurethane and a polyhydric alcohol derivative is
crosslinked through isocyanate, and said mixture is also
crosslinked with the pre-treating agent layer that coats
the fibrous structural material.

[0039] The polyisocyanates that can be used herein
include aromatic polyisocyanates and aliphatic polyiso-

cyanates, which include dimers and trimers such as
tolylene diisocyanate, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocya-
nate, 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate), hex-
amethylene diisocyanate, xylylene diisocyanate, and
isophorone diisocyanate; and trimers produced from
foregoing ones modified with trimethylpropane; as re-
quired.

[0040] When such a polyisocyanate is added up to not
less than 3 wt% and less than 50 wt%, preferably not
less than 10 wt% and less than 30 wt%, relative to the
weight of the water-swella-
ble polyurethane, and then re-
acted, the adhesive layer undergoes crosslinking with
the pre-treating agent to thereby develop and maintain
adhesiveness and moisture permeability.

[0041] For the present invention, the ratio of the
number of the isocyanate units contained in the water-
swella-
ble polyurethane in the adhesive layer to the
number of the ethylene glycol units contained in the
polyol should preferably be not less than 20 and less
than 30 to develop high moisture permeability.

[0042] As described above, when a polyurethane that
is high in the proportion of the soft segments to the hard
segments and contains hydrophilic soft segments is
used, higher moisture permeability can be retained after
the completion of crosslinking.

[0043] Moreover, a water-soluble polyhydric alcohol
derivative is preferably used as the polyhydric alcohol
derivative in order to retain moisture permeability. Said
polyhydric alcohol derivative can be used in combina-
tion with other compounds. Such other polyhydric alco-
hol derivatives that can be used in combination include
glycerol derivatives, glycerol being particularly pre-
ferred, because they serve to maintain stability and
safety when used in combination.

[0044] The polyisocyanate used for crosslinking of the
water-swella-
ble adhesive layer is preferably an aliphatic
isocyanate derivative.

[0045] A polyisocyanate of non-yellowing type is more
suitable because the water-swella-
ble adhesive layer
comes into contact with the fibrous structural material. In
order to regulate the reactivity during crosslinking, dim-
ers and trimers of hexamethylene diisocyanate or trim-
ers produced from foregoing ones modified with a mod-
ifier such as trimethylpropane are preferred.

[0046] For the present invention, said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer attached to said fibrous structural mate-
rial is preferably a continuous resin layer. The term "con-
tinuous resin layer" used herein refers to two-dimen-
sionally continuous resin film, free of any discontinuous
portion, over the entire region that is adhered to the fi-
brous structural material. When a continuous layer is
used, lowering of water pressure resistance due to film
rupture, which may occur when so-called point adhesion
is performed, can be significantly suppressed, and film
surface rupture due to abrasion can be significantly re-
duced. The use of a high moisture-permeability adhe-
sive layer significantly serves to prevent the lowering of
moisture-permeability from being caused by adhesion

over the entire surface, resulting in excellent moisture permeability and water resistance achieved simultaneously.

[0047] Useful fibrous structural materials for the present invention include, but not limited to, woven, knitted, nonwoven, and other fabrics made of fibers such as synthetic ones based on polyester, polyamide, or acrylate, as well as cotton, wool, and silk. Preferred fibrous structural materials include fabrics commonly used for clothing, particularly fabrics produced from polyester fibers such as polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene terephthalate, and polybutylene terephthalate, or from polyamide fibers such as nylon 6 and nylon 66.

[0048] For the present invention, the "moisture-permeable, waterproof material" refers to a material having both moisture permeability and waterproofness.

[0049] The "moisture permeability" of said moisture-permeable, waterproof material refers to the same ability as the "moisture-permeability" defined for said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer. In other words, the moisture-permeability is the ability to allow sweat vapor or liquid sweat generated inside clothing to pass through the film, thereby discharging the sweat vapor or liquid sweat to outside the clothing. The moisture permeability of the material of the present invention is 10,000 to 40,000 g/m²·24hr, preferably 15,000 to 35,000 g/m²·24hr.

[0050] The "waterproofness" refers to the ability to block out water droplets of rain or snow so as not to allow them to pass through the film surface to inside the clothing. The waterproofness of the material of the present invention, when expressed by water pressure resistance, is 2.0 kgf/cm² (1.96 MPa) or higher, preferably 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa) or higher.

[0051] The production method of said moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention is described below.

[0052] Said moisture-permeable, waterproof material can be produced by coating a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer with a water-swellaable adhesive layer, the latter being the outermost, and allow film to be formed by removing solvents and other substances, if such solvents or substances are used, during the coating process, followed by pressure-bonding a fibrous structural material, pre-treated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component, to said water-swellaable adhesive layer to achieve adhesion.

[0053] Specifically, an adhesive is firstly applied over a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, which may be attached to a release support, by a coating technique such as knife-over-roll coating, direct-roll coating, reverse-roll coating, or gravure coating, while adjusting the amount of the adhesive so as to obtain an adhesive layer of a desired thickness, followed by drying at 50 to 150°C for 0.5 to 10 minutes, to thereby produce film. In order to produce a continuous adhesive layer, the knife-coating technique is preferred.

[0054] The release support may be a sheet-like substrate having a smooth surface with low affinity to the resin film formed thereon. Examples of such a release support include film and paper. Generally, release paper or film with silicone resin applied thereon or release paper laminated with polypropylene is preferably used as said release support.

[0055] Subsequently, a fibrous structural material pre-treated with a substance such as a polyhydric compound is pressure-bonded over the adhesive layer so as to adhere the fibrous structural material and the adhesive layer together, to thereby produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material. In other words, specifically, a fibrous structural material pre-treated with a pre-treating agent is placed over a sheet comprising said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer laminated with said adhesive layer produced as described above, followed by applying a pressure, to thereby adhere the resin layer, i.e., the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, and the fibrous structural material together with the adhesive layer interposed in between.

[0056] The "pressure bonding" used herein refers to applying a pressure by pressing so as to ensure adhesion. For example, a resin layer supported on a release support is attached to a fibrous structural material to form a laminate, which is then allowed to pass between two rolls that are pressed against each other, thereby adhering the fibrous structural material and the resin layer together. During this process, an appropriate pressure may be applied between the rolls while heating them to remelt the adhesive layer, thereby enhancing the adhesion.

[0057] When a release support is used, the moisture-permeable, waterproof material is aged after removing it from the release support, or aging is performed first, followed by removing the moisture-permeable, waterproof material from the release support. The surface of the fibrous structural material comprising the resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material may be subjected to water repellent treatment, as required, by a known technique.

[0058] The pre-treatment for the present invention may be performed by impregnating an aqueous solution containing a pre-treating agent into a fibrous structural material, followed by heat treatment to ensure fixation, or it may be performed by allowing a pre-treating agent to be entirely absorbed and fixed in the fibrous structural material in a bath.

[0059] The former method, i.e., impregnation of an aqueous solution of a pre-treating agent into a fibrous structural material, followed by heat treatment for fixation, may be performed as follows: A treatment solution of a desirable concentration, which has been determined according to the pickup of the fibrous structural material, is impregnated into the fibrous structural material, which is squeezed with a mangle, followed by heat treatment for fixation. If a sufficient durability cannot be achieved by the above-mentioned procedure, a

crosslinkable resin may be used in combination as required.

[0060] The latter method, i.e., complete absorption and fixation of a pre-treating agent in a fibrous structural material in a bath, may be performed as follows: An aqueous solution containing a pre-treating agent is impregnated into a fibrous structural material, and the bath is heated so as to allow the fibers constituting the fibrous structural material to absorb completely the pre-treating agent to ensure its fixation.

[0061] By utilizing the effects described above, the moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention can serve to produce outdoor wear such as fishing wear and mountaineering wear; ski wear, wind-breakers, athletic wear, golf wear, rain wear, and casual coats; as well as outdoor working wear, gloves, and shoes.

Examples

[0062] The present invention will be described more specifically below by way of examples. Substrate cloth and evaluation methods used for the present invention are as follows.

Substrate Cloth

(1) Taffeta made of nylon 6 fiber

[0063]

yarn type: warp 70 denier (77.7 dtex)-68 filaments
weft 70 denier (77.7 dtex)-68 filaments
weave density: 116×88 yarns/inch
metsuke: 72 g/m²

(2) Taffeta made of polyethylene terephthalate fibers

[0064]

yarn type: warp 75 denier (83.3 dtex)-72 filaments
weft 75 denier (83.3 dtex)-72 filaments
weave density: 110×95 yarns/inch
metsuke: 150 g/m²

Moisture permeability:

[0065] Measured in accordance with JIS L 1099 "Potassium Acetate Method"

Water pressure resistance:

[0066] Measured in accordance with JIS L 1092 "High Water Pressure Method"

Peel strength in a moistened condition:

[0067] Peel strength of specimens immersed in water

for 5 minutes were measured.

Durability against continuous washing:

[0068] Specimens were washed continuously until lifting of the film, which was caused by separation of the film surface layer from the substrate cloth, showed up. Durability against continuous washing of each specimen was judged according to the time from beginning of the test until the appearance of lifting. If the time is 100 hours or longer, the specimen is considered as durable.

Example 1

(1) Production of a taffeta made of primer-treated nylon fiber

[0069] A 1.2% aqueous solution of a sulfonated product of a low molecular weight novolac resin was prepared, and pH of the solution was adjusted with acetic acid and sulfuric acid to about 2.4. The aqueous solution thus obtained was impregnated (2-dip/2-nip) into a taffeta made of nylon fibers. The resulting taffeta was dried at 120°C for 2 minutes, followed by washing with water and drying at 110°C, to thereby provide a taffeta made of nylon fiber treated with the pre-treating agent.

(2) Preparation of a resin solution for moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer production

[0070] A water-swellaable polyurethane resin produced from 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate serving as the isocyanate component, wherein the ratio of the number of ethylene glycol units in the polyethylene glycol in the polyol to the number of isocyanate units was 8.4, was dissolved in a mixed solvent containing 39 parts by weight of dimethylformamide and 61 parts by weight of methylethylketone, to thereby provide a 23 wt% solution.

(3) Preparation of a resin solution used for adhesive layer production

[0071] A water-swellaable polyurethane resin produced from 4,4'-methylenebis(cyclohexylisocyanate) serving as the isocyanate component, wherein the ratio of the number of ethylene glycol units in the polyethylene glycol in the polyol to the number of isocyanates was 27, was dissolved in a mixed solvent containing 58 parts by weight of dimethylformamide, 27 parts by weight of methylethylketone, and 15 parts by weight of toluene, to thereby provide a 23 wt% solution. To the solution, glycerol isocyanurate-connected hexamethylene diisocyanate, which is a trimer of hexamethylene diisocyanate, were added up to 22 wt% and 10 wt%, respectively, relative to the total weight of the resin, to prepare a resin solution to be used for adhesive layer

production.

[0072] Subsequently, the resin solution for moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer production was applied over a release paper using a knife coater with a clearance of 100 μm , followed by drying at 120°C for 2 minutes, to thereby produce a film.

[0073] Then, the resin solution for adhesive layer production was applied over the resulting moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer using a knife coater with a clearance of 15 μm , followed by drying at 120°C for 2 minutes, to thereby produce film. The taffeta made of nylon fibers treated with the pre-treating agent was attached to the adhesive layer, and the laminated material thus obtained was allowed to pass between hot rolls that consisted of a metallic roll and a rubber roll and operated at a linear load of 1.2 kg/cm, a metallic roll temperature of 130°C, and a travel speed of 5.7 m/min, to attach the adhesive layer closely to the taffeta made of nylon fiber together, followed by passing the resulting material between the hot rolls operating at a linear load of 8.9 kg/cm, a metallic roll temperature of 130°C, and a travel speed of 5.7 m/min, to thereby adhere the layers together.

[0074] After the adhesion, the release paper was removed, and the specimen was aged at room temperature for 48 hours. After the aging, the surface of the substrate cloth (i.e., the surface of the taffeta made of nylon fibers) was subjected to water-repellent treatment using a gravure coater, followed by curing at 160°C for 2 minutes, to thereby produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention.

[0075] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 23,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability and high waterproofness, as well as a peel strength in a moistened condition of 320 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of not less than 100 hours, which indicate high durability.

Example 2

(1) Production of taffeta made of polyester fiber treated with a pre-treating agent

[0076] A 1.2% aqueous solution of a sulfonated product of a low molecular weight novolac resin was prepared, and pH of the solution was adjusted to 7 with sodium hydroxide, followed by addition of methylol melamine resin, serving as a cross-linking agent, up to a content of 0.5%. The aqueous solution obtained was impregnated (2 dip/2 nip) into a taffeta made of polyester fiber, followed by drying at 120°C for 2 minutes. After the drying, the resultant product was washed with water and further dried at 110°C, to provide a taffeta made of polyester fiber treated with the pre-treating agent.

[0077] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that a polyester textile (i.e., taffeta) was

used as the substrate cloth (i.e., fibrous structural material) instead of taffeta made of nylon fiber, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0078] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 31,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability and high waterproofness, as well as a peel strength in a moistened condition of 290 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of not less than 100 hours, which indicate high durability.

Example 3

[0079] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that Hytrel 8071 film (30 μm), which is a block copolymer consisting of polybutylene terephthalate, serving as hard segments, and a polyether, serving as soft segments, was used as the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0080] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 18,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability and high waterproofness, as well as a peel strength in a moistened condition of 300 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of not less than 100 hours, which indicate high durability.

Example 4

[0081] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that Hytrel 8071 film (30 μm), which is a block copolymer consisting of polybutylene terephthalate, serving as hard segments, and a polyether, serving as soft segments, was used as the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0082] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 26,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture permeability and high waterproofness, as well as a peel strength in a moistened condition of 300 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of not less than 100 hours, which indicate high durability.

Example 5

[0083] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that glycerol was not added in preparing a resin solution for adhesive layer production, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0084] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 16,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability

and high waterproofness, as well as a peel strength in a moistened condition of 160 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of not less than 100 hours, which indicate high durability.

Comparative Example 1

[0085] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that a taffeta made of nylon fiber that was not treated with any pre-treating agent was used, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0086] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 23,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability and high waterproofness, but had a peel strength in a moistened condition of 110 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of less than 24 hours, which indicate poor durability.

Comparative Example 2

[0087] The same procedure as in Example 1 was carried out except that a taffeta made of polyester fiber which was not treated with any pre-treating agent was used, to produce a moisture-permeable, waterproof material.

[0088] The resulting moisture-permeable, waterproof material had a moisture permeability of 32,000 g/m²·24hr and water pressure resistance of 3.0 kgf/cm² (2.94 MPa), which indicate high moisture-permeability and high waterproofness, but had a peel strength in a moistened condition of 240 g/cm and a durability against continuous washing of less than 24 hours, which indicate poor durability.

Industrial Applicability

[0089] The above-described constitution of the present invention provides material that has a single fiber surface with high wettability by a water-swella-
ble, adhesive layer and that contains highly crosslinkable functional groups to achieve high adhesiveness, particularly in a moistened state, even when a water-swella-
ble, highly moisture-permeable adhesive layer is used. Consequently, a moisture-permeable, waterproof material endowed with high moisture-permeability and excellent waterproofness as well as high film strength can be produced, making it possible to expand the range of applications of laminated materials.

[0090] By utilizing the effects described above, the moisture-permeable, waterproof material of the present invention can serve to produce outdoor wear such as fishing wear and mountaineering wear; ski wear, wind-breakers, athletic wear, golf wear, rain wear, and casual coats; as well as outdoor working wear, gloves, and shoes.

Claims

1. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material comprising a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, a fibrous structural material, and a water-swella-
ble adhesive layer interposed between the former two to adhere them together; wherein the surfaces of the single fibers that constitute said fibrous structural material are coated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component, and said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer and said fibrous structural material are adhered together via said pre-treating agent.
2. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to claim 1, wherein said pre-treating agent is a resin containing a phenol resin derivative as main component.
3. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer comprises a mixture of a water-swella-
ble polyurethane and a polyhydric alcohol derivative, and is crosslinked with a polyisocyanate.
4. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to claim 3, wherein the ratio of the number of ethylene glycol units constituting the polyethylene glycol in the polyol to the number of isocyanate units constituting said moisture-permeable, waterproof polyurethane, is not less than 20 and less than 30.
5. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to claim 3 or 4, wherein said polyhydric alcohol derivative is a glycerol derivative.
6. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to any of claims 3-5, wherein said polyisocyanate is an aliphatic isocyanate.
7. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to any of claims 1-6, wherein said adhesive layer is a continuous resin layer.
8. A moisture-permeable, waterproof material according to any of claims 1-7, wherein said moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer is a continuous resin layer containing polyurethane as main component.
9. A method for producing a moisture-permeable, waterproof material comprising the following steps: coating a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer with a water-swella-
ble adhesive layer, the latter being the outermost, to form film; and pressure-bonding a fibrous structural material pre-treated with a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as main component to said water-swella-
ble adhesive layer, thereby adhering said fi-

brous structural material and said water-swellable adhesive layer together.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said pre-treatment is achieved by impregnating an aqueous solution of said pre-treating agent into said fibrous structural material, followed by heat-treatment for fixation. 5
11. A method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said pre-treatment is achieved by allowing said pre-treating agent to be completely absorbed and fixed in said fibrous structural material in a bath. 10

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, 5626950, A (Komatsu Seiren Co., Ltd.), 06 May, 1997 (06.05.97) & JP, 7-9631, A2 & EP, 648889, A1 & DE, 69412560, C0 & WO, 9425663, A1	1-11
A	US, 5753568, A1 (Komatsu Seiren Co., Ltd.), 19 May, 1998 (19.05.98) & JP, 6-313275, A & EP, 648889, A & DE, 69412560, C	1-11
A	US, 5753568, A1 (Komatsu Seiren Co., Ltd.), 19 May, 1998 (19.05.98) & JP, 7-9604, A & EP, 648889, A & DE, 69412560, C	1-11

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
14 January, 2000 (14.01.00)Date of mailing of the international search report
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GB 1228056
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(58) Field of search
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- (54) Neoprene hot-melt tape adhesive
(57) Adhesives suitable for application to a neoprene hot-melt sealing tape for neoprene coated materials comprise a phenolic resin that has a plasticising effect on neoprene.

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SPECIFICATION

Neoprene hot-melt tape adhesive

- 5 This invention relates to neoprene hot-melt tape for waterproofing seams in neoprene-coated fabrics or garments such as waterproofs and wet suits. 5
- Waterproofing tapes for other materials are conventional and conventionally applied by a hot-melt technique, for example in a Pfaff hot-melt seam sealing machine, which blows hot air on to the tape to melt it on to the seam. The same technique does not work very well on neoprene, however.
- 10 We have now found that a neoprene hot-melt sealing tape will work for sealing seams in neoprene-coated materials provided the tape is coated with a suitable adhesive. 10
- According to the invention, an adhesive suitable for application to a neoprene hot-melt sealing tape for neoprene coated materials comprises a phenolic resin that has a plasticising effect on neoprene.
- Examples of suitable resins are heat hardenable, oil soluble phenolic resins such as Super Beckacite resin (Shell) and Eurovar SP 560 (Schenectady Midland), which are equivalent. These named resins have a melting point between 80°C and 86°C. 15
- The adhesive may also comprise a crystalline polychloroprene rubber, and this may be present in the ratio about 100 parts to about 55 parts resin.
- The adhesive may also comprise a silicate, which may be present in the ratio between 0 and 30 parts to 55 parts resin, preferably 10 parts to 55 parts resin. 20
- The silicate may comprise calcium or aluminium silicate, or fumed silica. In addition, or alternatively, another inorganic white filler may be used.
- The adhesive may also comprise magnesium oxide, which may be present in the ratio about 4 parts to about 55 parts resin.
- 25 The adhesive may also comprise an antioxidant, which can be of any suitable material, and which may be present in a ratio about 1 part to 55 parts resin. 25
- An adhesive according to the invention may be prepared by rolling the ingredients on a two-roll mill or in an internal mixer such as a Bridge Banbury mixer. They may be dissolved in a suitable solvent, for example, toluene, or xylene to about 50% by weight. The neoprene tape may then be coated from such a solvent solution, or the adhesive may be applied as a hot melt from the pure dry mixture. 30

A typical formulation is

35	Neoprene AD 20	100 Parts by weight	
	Calcium silicate		35
	(as fumed silica)	10 parts by weight	
	Magnesium oxide	4 parts by weight	
	Suitable antioxidant	1 part by weight	
40	Super Beckacite or		
	Eurovar SP 560 resin	55 parts by weight	40
	Inorganic white filler	0 to 30 parts by weight	

A neoprene tape coated with such adhesive can be satisfactorily applied to a seam in a waterproof or wet suit of neoprene-coated fabric by a Pfaff hot-melt seam sealing machine.

CLAIMS (Filed 15 June 1982)

1. An adhesive suitable for application to a neoprene hot-melt sealing tape for neoprene-coated materials, comprising a phenolic resin that has a plasticising effect on neoprene. 50
2. An adhesive according to claim 1, in which the resin comprises Super Beckacite (RTM) or Eurovar SP (RTM). 50
3. An adhesive according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising a low gel crystalline polychloroprene.
4. An adhesive according to claim 3, in which the polychloroprene is present in the ratio about 100 parts to about 55 parts resin.
- 55 5. An adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 4, comprising a silicate. 55
6. An adhesive according to claim 5, in which the silicate is present in the ratio between 0 and 30 parts to 55 parts resin.
7. An adhesive according to claim 6, in which the silicate is present in the ratio 10 parts to 55 parts resin.
8. An adhesive according to any one of claims 5 to 7, in which the silicate comprises calcium silicate.
- 60 9. An adhesive according to claim 8, in which the calcium silicate is present as fumed silica. 60
10. An adhesive according to any one of claims 5 to 7, in which the silicate comprises aluminium silicate.
11. An adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 10, comprising magnesium oxide.
12. An adhesive according to claim 11, in which the magnesium oxide is present in the ratio about 4 parts to about 55 parts resin.
- 65 13. An adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 11, comprising an antioxidant. 65

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14. An adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 13, prepared by milling the ingredients in a two roll mill.
15. An adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 14, dissolved in a solvent.
16. A method of applying an adhesive according to claim 15 to a neoprene tape, in which the solution is
5 spread over one surface of the tape. 5
17. A method of applying an adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 14 to a neoprene tape in which the adhesive is applied as a hot-melt from the pure dry mix.
18. A neoprene hot-melt sealing tape for neoprene-coated materials, comprising an adhesive according to any one of claims 1 to 17.
- 10 19. A tape according to claim 18, in which the adhesive is applied to one face to a weight of at least 15 10
grams per square metre.

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